

ANNEX 4. SUMMARY WORKING GROUP – OUTCOME FROM SESSION #2

24 August 2005

200-330 pm

Three Working Groups were formed to consider a number of key questions that emerged from the Meeting yesterday (23 August 2005). The last two questions were:

Question 1.

What's a Dugong?

In the development of an MOU between countries on the conservation of dugong how can we:

- Raise the consciousness about how special dugong are;
- generate a greater commitment to action;
- assist countries where dugong are cryptic (not seen);
- lift the policy priority; and
- access funding and other resources?

Question 2.

Resources to support the implementation of the MOU?

Consider the following approaches to obtaining resources to support implementation of a dugong MOU and identify those that could be a priority in the short term and those to be pursued in the longer-term.

- a) Prioritise conservation and management actions for funding
- b) Explore funding options with Governments and other donors such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF
- c) Solicit funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on dugong and their habitats
- d) Explore the use of economic instruments
- e) Approach the private sector, foundations and NGOs that may have an interest in funding activities
- f) Generate funding through self supporting schemes, eg ecotourism
- g) Seek synergies (with other regional global convention secretariats)
- h) Explore international funding support and other incentives for signatory states that effectively manage marine turtle populations.

In considering the questions each Group appointed a rapporteur who reported back to the Plenary on the considerations of the Group. A summary of the three presentations is provided below.

SUMMARY

Question 1. What's a dugong?

There was recognition amongst delegates at the meeting that in some countries, there was very little knowledge or recognition of dugong conservation issues within their jurisdictions. This could be for a variety of reason including very low numbers of dugongs inhabiting the waters within a particular jurisdiction. As such, delegates were asked to discuss what information about dugongs, the species' conservation status and/or significance would be useful to have disseminated to states that are within the range of the dugong.

Delegates were in agreement that:

- there was a need for a coordination point for dissemination of information, in culturally appropriate ways (e.g. translate into language) to describe key aspects of dugong biology and the cultural significance of dugongs where this was known;
- messages should be delivered relevant to the target audience (e.g. raising the profile of dugongs with government departments would necessitate a different message to one for a local coastal community);
- a variety of products (e.g. television documentaries, posters, books, stuffed toys) and local identities (e.g. idols, champions) would assist with spreading information about the need for dugong conservation; and
- linking to the next question, thinking laterally with respect to funding such information campaigns by seeking funding from arts-orientated organisations.

Question 2. Resources to support the implementation of the MOU?

The following list was endorsed as a basis upon which future resources could be accessed to support actions identified under an MOU for Dugong Conservation:

- a) Prioritise conservation and management actions for funding
- b) Explore funding options with Governments and other donors such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF
- c) Solicit funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on dugong and their habitats
- d) Explore the use of economic instruments
- e) Approach the private sector, foundations and NGOs that may have an interest in funding activities
- f) Generate funding through self supporting schemes, eg ecotourism
- g) Seek synergies (with other regional global convention secretariats)
- h) Explore international funding support and other incentives for signatory states that effectively manage marine turtle populations.

However, there was also a recognition that

- some of the above-mentioned sources may be better separated into short term and longer term basis of resources;
- resources could also mean technical expertise and other non-monetary forms of support mechanisms;
- links with other programs (e.g. fisheries, seagrass, marine turtles) need to be made as the results of such programs could also benefit dugongs; and
- examining alternative sources such as education and arts-related organisations and to broader ecosystem sources (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves).